**H.R. 798, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2005**

Chemicals used in meth production are known health and environmental hazards - both in their precursor form as well as their residual and byproduct form. Unfortunately, meth is often produced in residential settings, where anyone present is exposed to the drug, noxious chemicals and fumes. This contamination can spread throughout the structure where meth is produced and, if it is not properly cleaned, the substances that remain can negatively impact the health and lives of current or future inhabitants and contaminate the environment. H.R. 798 addresses these problems by:

* Research – H.R. 798 requires the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA AA) to establish a research program to support development of voluntary clean-up guidelines to determine when a former meth lab is safe for human habitation. Specifically, it requires the research to identify chemicals of concern in a residential meth lab, assess the types and levels of chemical exposures that may present a significant risk of adverse biological effects, identify the research necessary to address biological effects and to minimize adverse human exposures, evaluate the effectiveness of various meth cleanup and remediation techniques, and support other research priorities identified by the EPA, states and other interested parties through the Technology Transfer Conference.

* Voluntary Guidelines – Not later than one year after the date of enactment, H.R. 798 requires the EPA AA, in consultation with NIST, to establish voluntary guidelines based on the best currently available scientific knowledge on preliminary site assessment and the remediation of residual contaminants. These guidelines are to be updated as new knowledge and research findings become available. In the meantime, H.R. 798 requires the EPA AA to consider, among other things, the following in developing the guidelines: relevant standards, guidelines and requirements found in federal, state, and local laws and regulations; the varying types and locations of former meth laboratories and the expected cost of carrying out the proposed guidelines.

* Technology Transfer Conference – Within 90 days, H.R. 798 requires the EPA AA to convene a meeting of state agencies, individuals and organizations involved in activities related to the environmental or biological effects of former meth labs to share best practices and identify research needs. It also requires the EPA to report to Congress on the conference proceedings, including any recommendations or concerns raised by nonfederal participants and a description of the EPA response.

* Detection – H.R. 798 requires NIST, in consultation with EPA, to support a research program to develop methamphetamine lab detection technologies with an emphasis on field test kits and site detection for law enforcement.

* Study – Within 6 months, H.R. 798 requires the EPA to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to study the status and quality of research on the residual effects of meth labs, identify research gaps, and recommend an agenda for the EPA research program. In particular, the study will focus on children and first-responders. Within 3 months, it requires the EPA to transmit a report to Congress on how they will use the results to carryout and inform the research and guidelines in the Act.

* Authorizations -- Authorizes $3 million for each of the FYs 2006 through 2009 for EPA and authorizes $1.5 million for each of the FYs 2006 through 2009 for NIST.